



Regional Service Council Minutes Region 8

Meeting Date: November 17, 2010

Meeting Location: Vigo County DCS
30 N. 8th Street
Terre Haute, IN 47803

Council Members Present: David Uberto, Regional Manager; Diana Thomson, Clay County FCM; Heidi Wheeler, Clay County Director; Mike Goodwin, Sullivan County Director; Pamela Connelly, Vigo County Director; Judge Bruce Stengel, Vermillion Circuit Court; Diana Newnum, Vermillion County Director; Nikki Fuhrmeister, CASA Director; Andrea Williams Vigo County FCM

Council Members Absent: Judge Robert Springer, Sullivan Circuit Court; Judge Joseph Trout, Clay Circuit Court; Terry Modesitt, Vigo County Prosecutor; Sam Swaim, Parke Circuit Judge; Judge Dan Kelly, Vigo County Circuit Court; Judy Schoffstall, Foster Parent Representative

Others in Attendance: Diana Joslin, Vigo County DCS Supervisor; Sandy Waldrige, Children's Bureau/Community Partners; Jody Horstman, Hamilton Center, Inc.; Mary Yelton, LEAAP Center/Clay County Family Literacy; Jayne Frazier, The Villages; Sheila Johnson, Vigo County DCS; Bob Daugherty, DCS Central Office Accountant; Ashley Titus, Lifeline Youth & Family Services; Emily Owens, Wraparound; Aleshia Miles, Wraparound Intern; Deb Kessler, Vigo County Probation; Molly Price, Gibault Children Services; Suzy Cole, Vigo County DCS Supervisor; Jayne Frazier, The Villages; Norm Smith, Wernle Youth and Family Treatment; TJ Brink, Southwest Indiana Youth Village

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at: 4:36 p.m.

Dave Uberto welcomed attendees. Minutes were read from the September 2010 meeting. Dave entertained a motion to accept the minutes. Mike Goodwin made motion to accept the September minutes and Pam Connelly seconded the motion. Minutes accepted.

Budget Update

Bob Daugherty handed out budget information through October 2010 for fiscal year 2010 - 2011. We now have a budget of \$438,533 for Region 8. Average cost per child is \$2,725. We need to watch our budget closely through out the year.

Dave state that the numbers speak for themselves; it will be a tight budget this year. Need to make wise decisions on spending.

Community Partners/Prevention Services Update

Sandy Waldrige handed out information through October 2010. There were 37 referrals. Referrals are up from the summer. They are currently busy planning Christmas events for the kids.

Clay County Family Literacy Program

Mary Yelton handed out information on the program. There are currently 15 parents and children being served and they have a waiting list. Their bus is now fixed.

Wraparound

Emily Owens handed out information thru October 2010. There were 25 referrals to wraparound services. 29 Families served under prevention funds.

Fatherhood Initiative Program

Sandy Waldrige – There have been 47 referrals since March 19, 2010 from all counties. Al Hamblen has enjoyed working with staff. Fatherhood Initiative Summit will be held on Dec. 7, 2010 at Clabber Girl. Regions 5, 8, 16 will host the event. Presentation will be on what works with the initiative and where we have struggled. Hopefully it will be helpful. Diana Thompson and Al were able to go to Pendleton to meet with a dad and he appreciated that they made an effort in coming to see him and updating him on his kids.

Request for Proposals

The RFP will be on the DCS website www.in.gov/dcs December 1st. Deadline to submit written questions to dcg.childwelfareplan@dcg.in.gov is December 9th. Submission of proposals is due by January 2, 2011. Each region will have a committee to select what services and providers they would like to use. We may need to call a special RSC meeting in February.

Jim Shively of Jim Shively & Associates has gotten out of the business.

Region 8 has been combined with 13, 16 and 18 for a super region. We will have a person selected to be over the super region and they will attend the next RSC.

Foster Care Specialist

Jennie Bush has taken over Sullivan, Vermillion and ½ of Vigo County as the Foster Care Specialist. Debi Beddow is the Foster Care Specialist for Clay, Parke and ½ of Vigo County. Megan Cottrell is now a caseworker in the intake unit. There are currently 10 enrolled in the new classes for foster homes, adoption and relative homes. Foster parent Christmas party will be held on Dec 3rd at the Terre Haute First Baptist church on East Poplar Street. 40 people have signed up to attend at this point there will probably be around 160 attending. Lots of interest has been generated due to Patrece Dayton's TV spots about foster care. WTHI has a link for people interested in being a foster parent or

they call the office and ask for Debi or Jennie. 3 IQs in our office alone since the spots aired.

The fall foster parent appreciation dinner was held at the Golden Corral. A former foster child now at ISU spoke about her experiences as a foster child. She said she was a spit fire and made her foster parents jump thought the hoops. She spoke about the support that she received. She made the foster parents feel that the work they do is appreciated. Her talk was the best part of the evening.

Judge Stengel inquired if Judges are still invited to the Foster Family dinners? He enjoys attending them. Dave extended an invitation to the Dec. 3rd party which starts at 6pm.

Angel Tree

ISU Department of arts and sciences are taking 26 angels instead of buying Christmas for each other. The angel gift is to be \$15.00 per child and they will receive on Dec. 3rd at the Christmas party. The FCM will deliver the gifts to those that are unable to attend the party. If you know of anyone that wants to participate in purchasing gifts for our angels please contact the local DCS offices. More people are offering to help our angels even with the bad economy.

Additional Business

Judge Stengel – Is it a directive that foster care is going to be reduced by 50%? Pam stated that we are trying to provide services early so we can reduce the need to put children in foster care. The state wants to reduce how long a child is in care and get them to permanency and place with relatives as much as possible. Our region is at 36% in foster care, we have already been focusing on that but not all regions have been and they are trying to get everyone in the state on the same track.

Mary Yelton talked about the Bridges out of Poverty Workshop. She appreciated the donation that RSC made and they had over 60 attend. It has been requested that they have another workshop in the spring. Dave asked if there were evaluations done and that he would like to see the information from them. Diana Thomson attended and said there was a lot of good information given.

Community alternative CPRTS grant is up for recertification for the next two years. If you are so inclined please sign the form being passed around so they can be part of the grant.

Jody Horstman - They are facilitating services, helping them get a family team and assessing services around the community. These are the kids that don't have Medicaid and no funding sources.

Clay and Sullivan counties have an attorney position posted if you know of anyone that would be interested in submitting an application please contact Heidi Wheeler.

Andrea Williams attended a presentation that CASA recently had. It was really interesting and informative. It was nice to get their perspective.

TJ Brink - SWIYV – They have a new Director. They are very busy preparing for Thanksgiving and Christmas and all the activities going on.

There are a lot of new faces in Region 8. Vigo has four new Family Case Managers, Sullivan and Vermillion each have one new Family Case Manager. Vigo is currently interviewing for the Supervisor position vacated by Jason Bouchard who accepted a position with Workforce Development.

Dave proposed keeping the RSC meetings every other month beginning January 19, 2011 at 4:30 although a special meeting may have to be called for a council vote.

Pam thanked Hamilton Center for Cody Sutton.

Three intern candidates from ISU were interviewed all are very capable students. We are very fortunate with the ISU interns several have been hired by DCS and have done quite well. ISU does a good job preparing them. Pam praised the Intern currently in Vigo County for attending an autopsy on her first day with the agency.

Dave stated it has been a good year although we have had our ups and downs. People have benefited from all the help provided by this council. It is a result of all of us as a team. Thank you for being a part of this. Have a good and safe holiday season.

Meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in the second floor training room.